

NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
AUDIO CONFERENCE – STATEWIDE POLYCOM
January 18, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Kirsten Dvorak, Trevor Vannett, Teresa Larsen, Darcy Severson, Joseph Hall, Kevin McDonough, Gillian Plenty Chief (via phone), Tina Bay, Matthew McCleary, Jason Sutheimer, Becky Hoff, Deborah Jendro, Bruce Murry

Members Absent: Marshall Longie, Bruce Klootwyk, Eugenie Lang, Timothy Starks

Others Present: Aimee Volk, Robyn Throlson, Cheryl Anderson, Josh Villbrandt (HIT), LouAnn Nider, Jeff Anderson, Michele Burney, Angie Bray, Karli Degenstein, Rikki Trageton

Kirsten Dvorak called the meeting to order 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Action: A motion was made by Jason Sutheimer and seconded by Kevin McDonough to accept the agenda and add orientation of new members to the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of October 24 & 25, 2017 Minutes.

Action: A motion was made by Darcy Severson and seconded by Joseph Hall to accept the SRC quarterly minutes from the last meeting on October 24 - 25, 2017. Motion carried.

Update on Expanded Supported Employment Grant – Cheryl Anderson

The Expanded Supported Employment Grant is a pilot project that looks at customized employment for individuals with the most significant disabilities. This is a collaborative project with Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division, to assist individuals in sheltered work find competitive integrated employment. The pilot is also intended to assist both DD and VR establish policies and payment rates that promote customized employment. The grantees are collecting data and costs associated with the various phases of customized employment. In year one, sixteen percent of the participants were in competitive integrated employment jobs, in year two, the number increased to sixty-one percent of the participants were employed in competitive integrated jobs.

Action: A motion was made by Bruce Murry and seconded by Teresa Larsen to ask DHS senior management and complete an optional adjustment request (OAR) to take this grant statewide. The employment subcommittee will work on this and report back at the next meeting.

Action: A motion was made by Darcy Severson and seconded by Jason Sutheimer for VR to implement a policy on customized employment across the state. Motion carried.

Committee Chair Reports

Membership/Public Relations Committee – Joseph Hall, Chair

Joseph discussed the renewal process for second term members. They must submit their application online at <https://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/AppForm.aspx>. There has been a delay with getting applications processed. There are two members that have submitted their second term application online and one has been processed. There are currently four vacancies on the State Rehabilitation Council. The subcommittee has reached out to two individuals to fill out applications. The current disability rate is at 73%.

Planning and Evaluation Committee – Teresa Larsen, Chair

Teresa Larsen was elected as the new chair of this subcommittee. Discussion was held about the client satisfaction survey. The survey had an 80% response rate. There are 200 random individuals surveyed annually. Market Decisions is the contractor to the client satisfaction survey. Of the individuals surveyed, 88% of the individuals were satisfied with VR services while 5% of the customers experienced problems in the last four quarters. The most common problems expressed were: the client did not receive employment, agency was of no help, counselor was not helpful, counselor did not listen, and the waiting time was not good.

The group discussed the state plan amendment goals. These are due in mid-March. Prior to the state plan being approved there will be a statewide public forum for feedback.

A motion was made by Teresa Larsen and seconded Trevor Vannett to recommend the State Plan goals and priorities with revisions as presented. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

Resource Committee – Jason Sutheimer, Chair

The employee survey was sent out to the executives. They are planning to review the data and break it down.

Employment Committee – Bruce Murry, Chair

Nothing to report.

Tribal Updates

Gillian Plenty Chief, Standing Rock Vocational Rehabilitation Project

They were closed most of December as they follow the school schedule. Their program got funded for another year. Jamie Hall still has one more year until she can re-apply for the VR program.

DVR Regional Updates - Williston – Andrea Meyer

Currently Region 1 is at 32% of their goal for new applicants. Most are transition students or needing supported employment services. Williston High School started a new Pre-ETS contract. Referrals are mostly from individuals that are out of state in which they are lacking appropriate documentation. Lutheran Social services has hired an employment specialist. They have quarterly meetings in which VR, Job Service, and ALC are involved.

They have had vacant positions for quite some time. Recently they got permission through the hiring counsel to hire two positions which are currently still open. They are at 42% for IPEs. Region 1 is doing well with Pre-ETS time. Business contacts have been slow due to the vacancies. There are a lot of jobs openings in this region.

DVR Regional Updates – Bismarck – Tom Schiwal

They are also short staffed. The number of people in plans is similar to last year and the number of closed plans is 28 which is a little lower than last year. The total number of cases is 30 cases more than this time last year. The average caseload per counselor is 60. The application has increased to from 34 days to 37 days. The months that a case is in service status is approximately 14 months. There has been an increase in transition students. They have seen several individuals that are not ready for work at this time. They are doing very well with their goal to meet the time spent with Pre-ETS time and striving to reach students earlier in their high school education. They are keeping track of measurable skills gains and certifications. In this region transit is an issue with the schedules and getting to where they need to get to on time. Taxis are very expensive compared to transit.

DVR Budget Update – Robyn Throlson

The total grant award for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016 was \$10,393,765. There was \$730,884 that was unused due to vacancies and delays in filling the positions. There was close to \$500,000 in SSA Reimbursement which had to be spent first. For FFY 17 grant there was 100% of the grant that was carried over. VR met the general fund match for FFY 17 grant in which it is expected that 100% will be spent. Currently, VR is spending the general fund match for FFY 18 grant.

NDACP Workforce Development Grant – Bruce Murry

NDACP wants to complete a PowerPoint for schools. If you have any Health Career teachers that would be good could you please email Bruce with their information?

Orientation of New Members – Teresa Larsen

Teresa inquired if the membership committee could look at options for orientation of new members.

Next meeting April 18-19, 2018.

A motion was made by Jason Sutheimer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.